

Remarks:

Claim Status

Claims 6-9 are pending, and stand rejected.

By this Amendment, claims 8 and 9 are amended and claims 6 and 7 are canceled without prejudice. No new matter is added by the claim amendments, and accordingly, entry and approval of same is respectfully requested. Support for the claim amendment is found throughout the original specification, and, more particularly, in original claim 6 and Fig. 8.

Entry of Rule 1.116 Amendment

Applicants request entry of this Rule 116 Response because it: (1) cancels claims 6 and 7; and (2) places the application in condition for allowance.

The Manual of Patent Examining Procedures sets forth in Section 714.12 that "any amendment that would place the application either in condition for allowance or in better form for appeal may be entered." Moreover, Section 714.13 sets forth that the Proposed Amendment "should be immediately considered to determine whether it places the application in condition for allowance or in better form for appeal." The Manual of Patent Examining Procedures further articulates that the reason for any non-entry should be explained expressly in an Advisory Action.

Rejection of Claims 6-9 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In the Office Action at pages 2 and 3, claims 6-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stovall et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,404,706) (hereafter referred to as Stovall).

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 6 and 7

Claims 6 and 7 have been canceled without prejudice.

Accordingly, the rejection of these claims is now moot.

Claim 8

Claim 8 is directed to a transducer-supporting structure, and recites "a thermal coupling member extending between said transducer and said suspension for thermally coupling said transducer with said suspension."

Stovall Reference

In the Action, the Examiner contends that Stovall discloses "a thermal coupling member 95 extending between said transducer 35 and said transducer mounting section 40, said thermal coupling member 95 being formed of a part of said suspension 33 for thermally coupling said transducer [35] with said suspension [33] and being in direct contact with said transducer 35 (Fig. 5), (brackets added)."

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner regarding the correspondence of elements in Stovall with that of the present invention. It is submitted that: (1) the read/writer element 50 of Stovall corresponds to the transducer of the present invention recited in claim 8; (2) the slider 35 of Stovall corresponds to the transducer mounting section of the present invention recited in claim 8; and (3) the suspension 33 of Stovall corresponds to the suspension of the present invention recited in claim 8. This is because, the read/write element 50 of Stovall is disclosed to include a write element 60 and a read element 61 for reading and writing to a disk (see Stovall at col. 5, lines 42-67) and the slider 35 of Stovall is disclosed to include "an air bearing surface 48 designed to 'float' the slider body 47 over the cushion of air which follows the spinning disk 14, in order to precisely space the read/write element 50 from the magnetic medium on or within the disk 14," (see Stovall at col. 5, lines 5-9). That is, the slider 35 of Stovall enables mounting of the read/write element 50 and precise spacing of the read/write element 50 from the magnetic medium.

It is clear from Fig. 5 of Stovall that the adhesive 95 of Stovall does not extend between the read/write element 50 (i.e., which corresponds to the transducer recited in claim 8) and the suspension 33 (i.e., which corresponds to the suspension recited in claim 8), as required by claim 8. Thus, there is a clear and patentable distinction between Applicants' invention of claim 8 and the disclosure of Stovall.

Ali Reference

It is submitted that Ali does not overcome the deficiencies of Stovall because Ali does not disclose or suggest "a thermal coupling member extending between said transducer and said suspension for thermally coupling said transducer with said suspension," as required by claim 8. This is because, Ali does not discuss anything related to a transducer or a suspension. Thus, a thermal coupling member can not extend therebetween.

The cited art taken singularly or in any prior combination does not disclose or suggest the above-mentioned features. Accordingly, claim 8 is submitted to patentably distinguish over the cited art and to be allowable thereover.

Claim 9

Claim 9 includes similar features to that of claim 8 and is also submitted to be allowable for reasons similar to those of claim 9.

Further, claim 9 includes the recitation of "said transducer is arranged on a medium side of said suspension." Both Stovall and Ali are silent regarding such a feature, and more particular, both Stovall and Ali are silent regarding such a feature for an electro-optical transducer.

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Conclusion

In view of the claim amendments and remarks set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 8 and 9 are in condition for allowance and early notification to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel N. Calder, Reg. No. 27,424
Eric Berkowitz, Reg. No. 44,030
Attorneys for Applicants

DNC/EB/ds/eb/ds

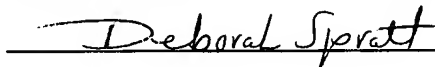
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P.O. Box 980
Valley Forge, PA 19482-0980
(610) 407-0700

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